

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by adding Section 65.110 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/65.110 new)

7 Sec. 65.110. Teacher reimbursement grant program.

8 (a) To encourage and motivate Illinois students to pursue
9 long-term teaching careers in elementary and secondary
10 education and to promote the retention of teachers in this
11 State, the Commission shall establish and administer a teacher
12 reimbursement grant program to reimburse public school
13 teachers and students pursuing a career as a public school
14 teacher for the tuition and mandatory fees they paid to a
15 public institution of higher learning in this State in order
16 to obtain a Professional Educator License under Article 21B of
17 the School Code and to teach in this State.

18 (b) Each year for a period of 6 years beginning on July 1,
19 2022, the Commission shall receive and consider applications
20 for grant assistance under this Section consisting of a
21 maximum of 10 payments to reimburse eligible applicants for up
22 to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of tuition and mandatory fees
23 associated with obtaining a Professional Educator License. An

1 applicant is eligible to receive a grant under this Section if
2 the Commission finds that the applicant:

3 (1) is a resident of this State;

4 (2) has:

5 (A) satisfactorily completed a State-approved
6 educator preparation program at a public institution
7 of higher learning in this State;

8 (B) enrolled in a State-approved educator
9 preparation program at a public institution of higher
10 learning in this State; or

11 (C) plans to enroll in a State-approved educator
12 preparation program at a public institution of higher
13 learning in this State;

14 (3) for an applicant under subparagraph (A) of
15 paragraph (2) of this subsection (b):

16 (A) holds a Professional Educator License;

17 (B) is actively employed in a full-time teaching
18 position in any grade or subject in a public school
19 located in this State; and

20 (C) was actively employed in a full-time teaching
21 position in any grade or subject in a public school
22 located in this State for the full school year
23 immediately preceding the applicant's submission of an
24 application to participate in the program; and

25 (4) provides to the Commission satisfactory
26 documentation of the total amount of tuition and mandatory

1 fees paid by the applicant to the public institution of
2 higher learning in this State for the purpose of obtaining
3 a Professional Educator License.

4 (c) A recipient of a grant under this Section may receive
5 reimbursement for up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of tuition
6 and mandatory fees paid by the recipient to a public
7 institution of higher learning in this State for the purpose
8 of obtaining a Professional Educator License. Any tuition and
9 mandatory fees paid to the institution of higher learning for
10 academic terms in excess of 8 semesters or 12 quarters are
11 ineligible for reimbursement and may not be included in any
12 calculation determining the total amount of the grant to be
13 awarded to a recipient. In no case may the amount of tuition
14 and mandatory fees reimbursed to a recipient under this
15 Section exceed the amount of tuition and mandatory fees
16 actually paid by the recipient to the institution of higher
17 learning.

18 (d) Each year, for up to 10 consecutive years, in which a
19 grant recipient submits satisfactory documentation to the
20 Commission verifying that the recipient was actively employed
21 in a full-time teaching position in a public school located in
22 this State for the full preceding school year, the recipient
23 shall receive a payment in an amount equal to one-tenth of the
24 total amount of tuition and mandatory fees approved by the
25 Commission under subsection (c).

26 (e) The Commission may encourage the recipient of a grant

1 under the program to use the grant award for repayment of the
2 recipient's higher educational loans, if any.

3 (f) The form of the application under subsection (b) and
4 the information required to be provided shall be determined by
5 the Commission. An applicant or recipient under this Section
6 is required to submit any documentation the Commission may
7 deem necessary.

8 (g) The provisions of this Section are subject to
9 appropriation.

10 (h) A public institution of higher learning shall provide
11 billing information to the recipient of a grant under this
12 Section. The recipient shall give the provided billing
13 information to the Commission.

14 (i) The Commission shall organize and update a database
15 every year of grant recipients and payments made under this
16 Section.

17 (j) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
18 implement and administer this Section.

19 (k) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2040.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.